

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 33 and 34 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 33 and 34 stand rejected.

The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-16, 18, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Gil et al. (2003/0128253) reference.

In the rejection described above, the Examiner states that the claims are rejected by the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference but uses the publication number (2003/0128253) of the Kitahara et al. reference. Applicants are proceeding under the assumption that the Gil et al. reference, not the Kitahara et al. reference, is the reference the Examiner intended to use in this rejection. If this assumption is incorrect, Applicants request that the Examiner clarify this rejection in a subsequent non-final office action if a subsequent office action is deemed necessary by the Examiner.

Claim 1 includes the features of a media support; a conductive path connected to the media support; and a heater positioned spaced apart from the media support, the heater being connected to the media support through the conductive path via a stationary connection.

In the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner states that plastic support portion 220 is the media support, heating resistor 215 is the heater, and heated media deflector 200 is the conductive path described in claim 1.

Referring to the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference, after web 3001 leaves the printing zone, it contacts and is guided by the surface of sheet metal portion 210 of heated media deflector 200 (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0025). As such, plastic support portion 220 does not support media as described in claim 1.

Instead, sheet metal portion 210 of heated media deflector 200 is the media support (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0025). Heating resistor 215 is provided at a bottom face of the sheet metal portion 210 (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0021). As such,

heating resistor 215 is not spaced apart from sheet metal portion 210. Therefore, it can not be said that the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference discloses a conductive path connected to the media support; and a heater positioned spaced apart from the media support, the heater being connected to the media support through the conductive path via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 includes the feature of the media support including a first surface and a second surface, the first surface being contactable with media, the conductive path being connected to the second surface.

Plastic support portion 220 does not contact media (FIG. 2B). Therefore, it can not be said that the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference discloses a media support including a first surface and a second surface, the first surface being contactable with media, the conductive path being connected to the second surface. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

Claim 18, which depends from claim 33, includes the feature of the first surface of the media support being heat conductive.

Plastic support portion 220 is plastic and includes an insulating plank 224 which is positioned between heating resistor 215 and plastic support portion 220 (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0020). There is no discussion in the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to conclude that plastic support portion 220 is heat conductive. In fact, the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference also discloses providing strips of insulator between hooks 221 and 222 of plastic support portion 220 and sheet metal portion 210 of heated media deflector 200 (FIG. 2B; paragraphs 0020 and 0021). As such, it can not be said that the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference discloses that the first surface of the media support is heat conductive. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11, which depends from claim 33, includes the feature of the first and second surfaces of the media support being heat conductive.

As described above with reference to claim 18, no surface of plastic support portion 220 is heat conductive. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 includes the feature of the heat conductive path connected to the media support comprising a heat conductive extension integrally formed at one end to the media support, the heater being connected to another location of the extension.

The sheet metal portion 210 of heated media deflector 200 is attached to plastic support portion 220 via hooks 221 and 222 (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0021). As such, it can not be said that the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference discloses that the heat conductive extension is integrally formed at one end to the media support. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 includes the feature of the conductive path being connected to the media support comprises a heat conductive extension connected at one end to the media support, wherein a portion of the extension is positioned relative to the heater such that the heater is supported by the extension.

Heating resistor 215 is provided at a bottom face of the sheet metal portion 210 (FIG. 2B; paragraph 0021). Therefore, it can not be said that the Gil et al. (2003/0081097) reference discloses a portion of the extension positioned relative to the heater such that the heater is supported by the extension. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

The remainder of the claims depending from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Wotton et al. ('618) reference.

Claim 19 includes the features of a media support having a curved surface; a plurality of heaters positioned spaced apart from the media support; and a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being connected to the media support via a stationary connection, each of the plurality of heater extensions being attached to one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions.

In the rejection of claim 19, the Examiner states that FIG. 3 shows a media support having a curved surface. The Examiner also states that heater 411 (FIG. 4) is the plurality of heaters, that belt 403 (FIG. 4) is the plurality of heater extensions, and that drive roller 405 and drive roller 406 (FIG. 4) are the stationary connection described in claim 19.

Referring to the Wotton et al. ('618) reference, drive roller 313 includes a curved surface and supports sheet 205 (FIG. 3). Applicants are proceeding under the assumption that roller 313 is the media support having a curved surface that is shown in FIG. 3. In FIG. 4, belt 403 moves around drive rollers 405 and 406 forming an endless conveyor (FIG. 4; col. 5, lines 45-48). Heater 411 is subjacent to belt 403 (FIG. 4; col. 5, lines 50-52). Drive rollers 405 and 406 drive belt 403 causing belt 403 to move over heater 411.

It does not appear that belt 403 is connected to drive roller 313 (or any other portion of the apparatus shown in FIG. 3) via drive rollers 405 and 406. As belt 403 is not connected to drive roller 313 via drive rollers 405 and 406, heat generated by heater 411 is not conducted to drive roller 313 through belt 403. As such, it can not be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses that heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Also, drive rollers 405 and 406 are not stationary. Drive rollers 405 and 406 rotate to move belt 403 around rollers 405 and 406 and over heater 411. As such, it can not be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses each of the plurality of heater extensions being connected to the media support via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, as drive rollers 405 and 406 rotate to move belt 403 around rollers 405 and 406 and over heater 411, heater 411 can not be attached to belt 403. If heater 411 were attached to belt 403, belt 403 would not be able to move as described in the Wotton et al. ('618) reference. As such, it can not be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses each of the plurality of heater extensions being attached to one of the plurality of heaters. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 includes the features of providing an extension affixed to a support via a stationary connection; and conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support, the surface of the support being contactable with the article.

In the rejection of claim 20, the Examiner maintains that the features of claim 20 can be found in col. 4, lines 35-63 of the Wotton et al. ('618) reference.

Referring to the Wotton et al. ('618) reference, "a heater 327... provides infrared convective energy to the ink drops deposited onto the print medium in order to evaporate the carrier in the ink... (FIG. 3; col. 4, lines 58-61)" As such, heating is accomplished using convection. In contrast, claim 20 describes accomplishing heating using conduction.

Therefore, it can not be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support, the surface of the support being contactable with the article. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-25 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Okuba et al. ('891) reference.

Claim 22 includes the features of a media support having a body portion including a surface contactable with a nonprinted side of a printed media; a heat conductive extension affixed to the body portion of the media support via a stationary connection; and a heater affixed to the extension at a location spaced apart from the media support.

In the rejection of claim 22, the Examiner states that belt 35 is the body portion of the media support, that high temperature belt 39 is the heat conductive extension, and that heater 43 is the heater described in claim 22. The Examiner maintains that high temperature belt 39 is affixed to belt 35 and that heater 43 is affixed to belt 39.

However, referring to the Okuba et al. ('891) reference, belt 39 is spaced apart from belt 35 (FIG. 3). A clearance δ (shown on the left hand side of FIG. 3) and a clearance γ (shown on the right hand side of FIG. 3) exist between belt 39 and belt 35 (FIG. 3; col. 5, lines 43-45; col. 6, lines 11-15). As such, belt 39 is not affixed to belt 35 via a stationary connection because belt 39 does not even contact belt 35.

Therefore, as a clearance δ and a clearance γ exist between belt 39 and belt 35, it can not be said that the Okuba et al. ('891) reference discloses a heat conductive extension affixed to a body portion of the media support via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, belt 35 moves in the direction indicated by arrow A (FIG. 3; col. 5, lines 1-3) while belt 39 moves in a direction opposite that indicated arrow A (FIG. 3; col. 5, lines 13-16). If belt 39 was affixed to belt 35 via a stationary connection, neither belt 39 nor belt 35 would not be able to move as described in the Okuba et al. ('891) reference.

Therefore, as belt 35 and belt 39 move in opposite directions, it can not be said that the Okuba et al. ('891) reference discloses a heat conductive extension affixed to a body portion of the media support via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Lastly, heater 43 provides radiant heat which raises the temperature of belt 39 (FIG. 3; col. 5, lines 19-21) because belt 39 moves as described above. If heater 43 were affixed to belt 39, belt 39 would not be able to move as described in the Okuba et al. ('891) reference.

As belt 39 moves around heater 43, it can not be said that the Okuba et al. ('891) reference discloses a heater affixed to the extension at a location spaced apart from the media support. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25 and 27-29 depending from claim 22 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Gil reference.

Regarding claim 21, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 21 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0035 and 0036] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application.

Claim 32 depends from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claim 32 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 21 and 32 is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Gil reference.

Claim 26 depends from claim 22. As such, Applicants are proceeding under the assumption that the Okuba et al. ('891) reference, not the Gil et al. reference, is the reference the Examiner intended to use in this rejection. If this assumption is incorrect, Applicants request that the Examiner clarify this rejection in a subsequent non-final office action if a subsequent office action is deemed necessary by the Examiner.

Regarding claim 26, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 26 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0035 and 0036] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 26 is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wotton reference.

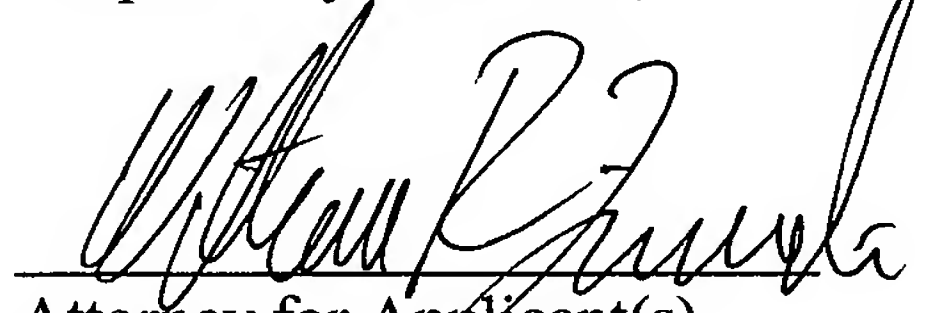
Claims 30 and 31 depend from claim 19. As such, Applicants consider claims 30 and 31 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 19. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 30 and 31 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

William R. Zimmerli/rgd
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2758
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.